

Committee(s): Education Board – For decision Policy & Resources – For decision	Date(s): 23 May 2019 6 June 2019
Subject: Revised Education Board Terms of Reference	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Polly Dunn	

Summary

At its meeting of March 2019, the Policy & Resources Committee queried proposed changes to the Education Board’s 2019/20 terms of reference and requested that the Education Board refine the wording to resolve the concerns. This report highlights what these concerns were, how they have been addressed, and seeks approval for the revised terms of reference.

Recommendation(s)

That Members approve:

- the revised terms of reference of the Board, as set out at Appendix 1, subject to any comments, for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee and onward approval at the Court of Common Council; and
- that any further changes required be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting of 10 January 2019, the Education Board approved a change to its terms of reference to incorporate mention of its three defined strands of its strategy: Education, Cultural & Creative Learning, and Skills.
2. The revised terms of reference were submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in March 2019 for approval. The Committee raised concerns over potential confusion and conflict between the work of the Education Board and that of the Policy & Resources Committee specifically in relation to skills and the work of the Economic Development Office; for instance, the work delivered with Central London Forward and in relation to employability. There was also a call for clarity between the relationship between the Gresham (City Side) Committee and Education Board.
3. Alternative wording was drafted, however, due to the complexity of the concerns raised, the Comptroller & City Solicitor was consulted, and the matter was not resolved in time for the Court of Common Council’s Appointment of Committees

for 2019/20. As a result, paragraph 4(b) the Education Board's proposed 2019/20 terms of reference were returned back to their 2018/19 form pending further work. The Court Order was otherwise approved.

Current Position

4. The advice of the City Solicitor & Comptroller on the two concerns of the Policy & Resources Committee is as follows:

Gresham (City Side) Committee and Gresham College

The Gresham (City Side) Committee's terms of reference reflect the City's responsibilities under Sir Thomas Gresham's Will as amended by subsequent Acts of Parliament; the requirements of the City are outlined in Appendix 1. The City does not have any direct education, cultural learning or skills responsibilities in respect of the Gresham Committee (City Side) or Gresham College, which is regarded as an arms-length charity. It is clear, therefore, that there is no risk of the Education Board's terms of reference impinging on the Gresham (City Side) Committee's responsibilities.

Scope of responsibility relating to the Economic Development Office

The desire of the Education Board at its meeting of 10 January 2019 was to include skills and employability in its terms of reference insofar as these responsibilities are consistent with the Education Board's strategies and do not encroach on the work of any other committees. This reflects the intention at the time the Education Board was established. The report in which a guide on how the responsibilities of the Education Board would be discharged can be viewed in appendix 2.

Additional matters

It was noted by the Comptroller & City Solicitor that the concerns raised by the Policy & Resources in relation to skills, could also be applicable to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee in respect of the Education Board's Creative & Cultural Learning strategy.

Grammar amendments have been indicated throughout the terms of reference for consistency purposes.

5. In addressing the Education Boards wished-for changes and the Policy & Resources Committee's concerns, whilst upholding responsibilities originally bestowed to the Education Board upon its establishment, the revised terms of reference have been proposed in appendix 3.

Conclusion

6. Members are invited to comment on, and approve, the revised Education Board Terms of Reference at appendix 3, for onward approval by the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft revised Education Board Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Responsibilities of the City of London Corporation under Thomas Gresham's Will (as amended by subsequent Acts of Parliament)

Background Papers

- Public Minutes of the Education Board meeting held on 10 January 2019
- Public Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held 14 March 2019.
- *The creation of the Education Board (March 2014)*

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